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Training and Education

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Central Region Aviation Training

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SUMMARY OF REVISIONS: This supplement replaces Regional Operations Manual Letter (ROML) C-09-98, “Central Region Aviation Operations Course”, and ROML C-20-97, “Meteorologist (MET) Intern Aviation Forecast Program”. All copies of ROML C-09-98 and ROML C-20-97 may be discarded.

This supplement provides guidance for Science and Operations Officers (SOOs) and Aviation Program Leaders in support of local aviation training for Meteorological Interns and Forecasters.

(Signed by Gary Foltz)

March 1, 2005

Dennis H. McCarthy
Director, Central Region

Date

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1. Introduction/Background. This Supplement replaces ROML C-09-98, “Central Region Aviation Operations Course”, and ROML C-20-97, “Meteorologist (MET) Intern Aviation Forecast Program”. This supplement defines the regional training requirements for newly hired forecasters and Meteorological (Met) Interns in support of the issuance of aviation forecast products.

2. Policy: As a provider of aviation-oriented products, the NWS recognizes the need for forecasters to complete basic meteorological courses pertinent to aviation forecasting, and should also receive training in how certain weather phenomena affect both aircraft performance and pilot decision-making. Central Region Met Interns must have completed, or be enrolled in, these courses before issuing TAF and/or TWEB products.

3. Purpose. The courses required below provide information and training pertinent to aviation flight operations, concerns, and requirements of the various users/customers of the aviation community. The courses are designed to provide Met Interns with a base-line knowledge. It’s expected that forecasters will build on this training through subsequent training and forecast experience.

4. Regional Training Requirements.

- Successful completion of all available NWS Distance Learning Aviation Courses
- Successful completion of all available NWSTC Aviation Modules

5. Local Training Requirements. In addition to the regional requirements, the completion of a local aviation-oriented training program, provided by the Aviation Program Leader and/or SOO is required. The local aviation training should include mesoscale/local meteorology and climatology, and include the needs and requirements of local customers/users (large air carriers, general aviation, etc.). Such training should include, but not be limited to, the following.

- How local weather phenomena impact performance, operations and decision-making on the various types of users in the local aviation community

- Local studies and climatology, as appropriate
- An understanding of WSR-88D techniques and ASOS algorithms
- LLWS local studies/research
- Satellite interpretation
- Review of NWS policy and directives associated with the NWSI 10-8 series
- Demonstrate proficiency in the preparation and dissemination of all locally-issued aviation products for the local forecast area and the back-up forecast area.

6. Documentation and Certification of Training. The local SOO and/or Aviation Program Leader will document all materials presented to, and courses completed by, each Met Intern (or Forecaster). At the completion of this training, the Met Intern (Forecaster) will sign a certification that regional and local aviation training has been successfully completed. The certification is conducted by the SOO, the Aviation Program Leader, or other person as designated by the MIC.